

## **Briefing Call for Sen. Feinstein's Staff – July 25, 2016 3-3:30 Eastern**

### **Attendees**

Sen. Feinstein's staff: Rachel Carr, AAAS fellow

OCIR: Catherine Davis

OGWDW: Peter Grevatt; Ashley Greene; Adrienne Harris; Christina Wadlington, Howard Rubin; Lisa McWhirter; Jill Dean; Joe Tiago

Region 9: David Albright; Brent Maier

Cathy opened the meeting and asked Rachel about what she was interested in, and her level of understanding of the UIC program and SDWA.

Rachel mentioned she had a general level of understanding on how the program works and wanted to know about EPA efforts to revise the aquifer exemptions regulations.

Cathy clarified that EPA was not in the process of making any rule revisions related to aquifer exemptions.

Rachel expressed interest in what we were doing on AEs related to the NRDC petition and general overview of our efforts.

Peter provided general background on SDWA and UIC regulations related to aquifer exemptions. He mentioned that EPA has not made a decision or communicated any final decision to NRDC re: the petition, and emphasized EPA is not making any decision on NRDC request to change the regulations.

Peter also mentioned other activities, including:

- Goliad decision and its implication to the program re: "current source"
- Collaboration with states which led to the memorandum to the Water Division Directors
- Current state of drought in CA which makes aquifer exemptions issues a little complicated

David gave an update on the aquifer exemption and regulatory oversight issues in CA. He mentioned they're expecting 25-30 aquifer exemption requests to be submitted by the state. EPA will review the applications and make a determination in a timely fashion based on the complexity and completeness of the packages.

A few questions by Rachel that were addressed during the call

- Is the July 2014 memo clarifying the regulation or additional specifics not in the regulation are added by the memo?
- Is the determination that an aquifer will not be used in the future less troublesome than the determination that an aquifer is not currently used as a source of drinking water?
- Has the memo made a difference since its release in the aquifer exemption approval process?
- What are EPA future plans for AEs?

- Will most of the 25-30 expected aquifer exemption request from CA the types that could be processed within 45 days of the receipt of a complete package?
- Will the new aquifer exemption requests include expansion of existing aquifer exemption as well as new requests?

Rachel's reaction to the briefing

- She thought the background information provided was very helpful and would follow up if needed.